

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet sheets include includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicant acknowledges and appreciates receiving an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on March 25, 2004.

Claims 1 – 4 are pending. Claim 2 has been canceled. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The drawing was objected to because Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 do not use the reference numeral 21. A replacement sheet is attached properly denominating reference numeral 21 in both Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to for various formalities. Each of the instances identified in the office action has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Each of the instances of indefiniteness identified in the office action has been remedied by way of the above amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fig. 1 of the application. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons, which are provided by way of example.

Claim 1 recites, for example, in combination, “a pair of monitoring electrode electrodes disposed to monitor monitoring a vibration of only one of the two vibrators.”

On the other hand, Fig. 1 fails to teach or suggest such a feature. To the contrary, in Fig. 1, both signals from the two pairs of monitoring electrodes loaded to the two vibrators 11 and 21 are used for driving the two vibrators.

The office action asserts that Fig. 1 discloses the invention as claimed. However, Fig. 1 fails to teach or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, when the claims are considered as a whole. Fig. 1 fails to teach or suggests, for example, that signals from only a pair of monitoring electrodes are monitored to drive the two vibrators.

Fig. 1 fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claim 1 is patentable over Fig. 1. In addition, Fig. 1 clearly fails to show other recited elements as well.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 6,666,091, Hatanaka et al. (“Hatanaka”) or U.S. Patent No. 6,705,151, Nozoe et al. (“Nozoe”). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, in combination, for example, “two vibrators each having an individual resonance frequency and having a plurality of movable electrodes disposed on both sides of each vibrator in a specified direction; a pair of monitoring electrodes disposed to monitor a vibration of only one of the two vibrators to output a signal indicative of the monitored vibration.”

Thereby, one or more embodiments can provide an oscillation type of micro gyro sensor. Even

where the same design dimensions and conditions are provided for two vibrators of a gyro sensor, it is inevitable in practice that the two vibrators have mutually different vibration frequencies. This can be mainly attributed to manufacturing variations. In operation, each of the two vibrators can operate independently. Accordingly, one or more embodiments can reduce or eliminate the difference in vibration frequencies.

Without conceding that Hatanaka or Nozoe discloses any feature of the present invention, both Hatanaka and Nozoe are directed to a tuning fork type of vibrator. To be more specific, in a tuning fork type of vibrator, the right and left vibration members of the vibrator always vibrate at the same characteristic frequency. Consequently, there is no difference between the vibration frequencies of the right and left vibration members. The monitor signal for the vibrations therefore can be picked up from one of the vibrators.

The office action asserts that Hatanaka or Nozoe discloses the invention as claimed. To the contrary, Hatanaka or Nozoe fails to teach or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, when the claims are considered as a whole. Hatanaka or Nozoe fails to teach or suggests, for example, the two vibrators each having an individual resonance frequency, or the pair of monitoring electrodes disposed to monitor a vibration of only one of the two vibrators to output a signal indicative of the monitored vibration.

Hatanaka or Nozoe fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claim 1 is patentable over Hatanaka or Nozoe, alone or in combination.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claim 1, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. In addition, Hatanaka and/or Nozoe clearly fails to show other recited elements as well.

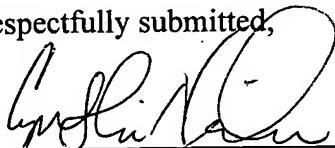
The applicant respectfully submits that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. The applicant does not concede that the cited prior art shows any element recited in the claims. However, the applicant has provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

The applicant strongly emphasizes that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicant has described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, applicant has provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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